

# Atlanta Ham

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

JUNE 2009

## The Atlanta Hamfest is days away and going strong!

Welcome to the 2009 Atlanta Hamfest - hosting the ARRL Georgia State Convention and hams from across the country.

The Atlanta Radio Club is proud to present this annual event, now in its 80th year. The Atlanta Radio Club and members from local clubs have worked for nearly a year to prepare for this milestone on June 6th. We thank everyone who has participated to make this another successful event.

Attendance at this show continues to increase since its locating at its current facility in June of 2000. Vendors are always excited to come to Atlanta. The Ham community is very supportive of those vendors that support the local hamfests. Don't forget to stop by and thank your favorite vendor for being here this year.

Once again we will have one of the largest gathering of tailgaters in the southeast. We continue to offer tailgaters an inexpensive and hassle free way to sell their stuff. One price and spread out as far as you can handle. Good Luck everyone!

As always we have a colorful cast of characters on hand to meet and greet from ARRL. This year we look



forward to seeing Susan Swiderski A4FO GA Section Manager, Greg Sarret W4OZK SE Division Director, and Frank Butler W4RH our beloved past SE Division Director. Sandy Donahue W4RU will be sorely missed after becoming a SK on May 4th.

"We have had a great response," Atlanta Hamfest Chairman John Talipsky N3ACK said. New vendors this year include BlueStar Antenna, Eagle One Antenna, Debco Electronics, and HamWorld Inc. As far as activities go this year its going to be

fun. Several HF rigs will be set up around the building on several bands including PSK31 and 10-10 operations.

*Continued on page 6*

## Radioing Over the Appalachian Trail

When packet radio was a new Amateur Radio pursuit, packeteers would attempt to see how far they could digipeat using the maximum eight digipeater call signs that you could program into a TNC.

Those were the days when you could count the packet users in Connecticut on one hand -- it was about the same in other localities, too --so multiple digipeater-hopping was no cause for concern. As I recall, the farthest I ever digipeated was about five digipeaters into Canada.

However, as packet radio matured and its users became more numerous, digi hopping began to be frowned upon because the sport interfered with real packet communications. And so it went.

Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, is bringing back the sport with his Appalachian Trail Golden Packet Event. He hopes to field enough Amateur Radio emergency com-

*(Continued on page 6)*

### Inside this issue...

**By-laws changing**  
Page...2

**June Meeting Info**  
Page...2

**Field Day Tips & Tricks**  
Page...4

**D-Star is Technology**  
**Bert Bruner KE4FOV**  
Page...5

**ARC Field Day plans**  
**Taking shape - Page...7**

## THE ATLANTA HAM

The **Atlanta HAM** is the official bulletin of The Atlanta Radio Club serving its members and the Atlanta community. Original articles, art, and photos are welcome. Copyrighted material cannot be printed without permission from the appropriate legal authority. Please include such disclaimers in all materials submitted.

Submit articles:

John Talipsky N3ACK  
385 Madison Chase Dr  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045

Contact the editor for available formats to transfer material.

### DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS THE 21ST OF EACH MONTH!

The **Atlanta HAM** is created using Microsoft Publisher

Permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of material found in the **Atlanta HAM** unless otherwise noted providing proper credit is given to the author and The Atlanta Radio Club.

**WIN AN  
ANTENNA PACKAGE  
JUNE 6TH!**



S&G Enterprises

**A \$140 value for a  
80-10 Meter portable  
antenna package**

www.w8afx.com

**SEE YOU AT THE HAMFEST!**

## Silver Comet ARS adds Digital Net to lineup

Lee McDaniel WB4QOJ President Silver Comet ARS A-DEC Digital ARRL Metro Atlanta

Are you interested in Digital Communications? Do you really like Sound Card modes? Well if you do not have HF privileges its a little hard to talk to other hams via digital Sound Card. Why not check into the "955 Digital Net" each Thursday at 7pm local time. The repeater is located in Dallas, Ga and covers West from Downtown Atlanta to North up I-75. The frequency is 146.955 minus 77 hz tone. We take voice check-ins discussions and also run digital over the repeater. In weeks past we have worked and discussed FLDigi, MixW, MultiPSK and sound card issues. We talk about interfaces as well Tigertronics Signalink, Rigblaster and others. The modes range from PSK (up to 250) RTTY, SSTV, MT63, PACKET and more. So drop by check in bring your ideas questions and "So Lets Talk Digital" and see what the latest is in Sound Card Digital Modes. 73's and see ya soon on the screen! - Lee WB4QOJ

## By-laws changes to be voted on June 4th

"New" by-laws is perhaps an overstatement. What the committee has attempted to do is modernize while not losing the unique character of the club. The purpose of these changes has been to clear up verbiage that was confusing or contradictory, simplify the rules, and modernize some aspects of how the club does business.

One change is the way the club accepts new members. When founded acceptance included tests to make sure the prospective new member was Morse code proficient and knowledgeable enough to be a member, to operate the club station, and so on. With the new rules an applicant pays their dues and is announced at the next meeting, no more voting in or out (who was ever not voted in?). This one change allows the club to modernize the application process, and allows the club to post reminders and collect annual renewals on line.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Come join us June 4th!

When: June 4th

Time: 730PM

Talk-in: 146.820(-) PL 146.2

We will be discussing the hamfest, Walton Co. foxhunt results, and the proposed changes to the club by-laws.

Red Cross HQ Atlanta  
1955 Monroe Drive NE  
Atlanta GA 30324

From the North: Take I-85 South. Get off at Exit 86 (Peachtree St.- Buford Hwy.), then take first exit (Armour Dr. - Monroe Dr.). Turn left at the light and go under the bridge, then right on Monroe Dr. Go a little over a tenth of a mile. Turn left in the driveway with the American Red Cross Chapter sign. The building is on the top of the hill.

From the South: Take I-85 North. Get off at Exit 86 (Buford Hwy.), then get off at Exit 27 (Monroe Dr.). Turn right at the light. Go a little over a tenth of a mile. Turn left in the driveway with the American Red Cross Chapter sign. The building is on the top of the hill.

## METRO TESTING SESSIONS

### Athens, GA

1st Monday of each EVEN-numbered month at 7:00 pm  
2095 W. Broad Street.

Contact: EDWIN FUQUA, N4VA  
(706) 354-1727 E: edwin.fuqua@charter.net

### Cartersville, GA

1st Tuesday of each month at the Cartersville Kroger. Contact: JODI POWELL, AG4BK  
(770) 387-1591

### Braselton, GA

1st Sunday 2:00 p.m. Odd-numbered months  
Braselton Public Utility Building 4986 Highway 53  
Contact: Mike Gee W9QO – 706-824-0043 or  
w9qo@arrrl.net Fee \$10

Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society/VEC

### Gainesville, GA

1st Sunday of EVEN-numbered months  
Johnson High School, 3305 Poplar Springs Rd  
Contact: ALFRED WESTBROOK, KT4VP  
(770) 965-4901 Email: kt4vp@arrrl.net

### Milledgeville, GA ARRL / VEC

2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 am  
at the Mary Vinson Memorial Library, 151 S. Jefferson  
Stacross from the Georgia Military Academy. Contact: OTIS  
MURPHY W4OY  
(478) 452-6394 Email: W4OY@arrrl.net

### Peachtree City, GA

1st Thursday of EVEN-numbered months at 7:00 pm, and  
the 2nd Saturday of ODD-numbered months at 10:00 am at  
the Peachtree City Library, downstairs meeting room. Contact: JAN DUBROCA, KN4JD (770) 502-0760

### Snellville, GA

2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm  
at Walton EMC, 3645 Lenora Church Road.  
Contact: WAYNE TAYLOR, WD3CCA  
(770) 498-7759

### Stone Mountain, GA ARRL / VEC

Alford Memorial Radio Club  
2nd Saturday of ODD-months at 8:30 am  
Stone Mountain United Methodist Church,  
5312 W. Mountain St.  
Contact: BOB VARONE, W4ETN  
(770) 978 3179 Email: bvarone@juno.com

### Marietta, GA CAVEC

Central America VEC  
3rd Saturday of month at 9:00AM  
Marietta First United Methodist Church  
56 Whitlock Avenue  
Contact: David Still WB4RRD  
wb4rrd@gmail.com

### Lawrenceville, GA

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
3rd Sunday of each month, 3-5PM  
Gwinnett Public Library—Five Forks Branch  
2780 Five Forks Trickum Rd Lawrenceville GA

### Atlanta, GA

Georgia Tech ARC & The Atlanta Radio Club  
4th Sunday of each month, 2:30pm GATECH  
cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/w4aql/test.html

## Shacks

Chris Fowler KI4YMD  
(Ok, so we pilfered it from The  
Garzette—Newsletter for GARS)

## UPCOMING HAMFEST CALENDAR

**6 JUNE** Georgia State Convention Atlanta Radio Club W4DOC  
www.atlantahamfest.com **Talk-In:** 146.820 (PL 146.2)



**Send us pictures of your shack  
for inclusion in later issues of  
The Ham!**

**Sunday Night Net:** All amateurs are invited to check into the Sunday Night Net at 8:00 PM on the 146.82 repeater. This net features comments from all check-ins, club news from club officers and committee chairpersons, a swap shop, and a discussion topic, if requested. 224.34 and 444.825 are normally linked in as well for the Sunday Night Net.

# ARRL Field Day tips and techniques everyone can use

Many amateurs treat ARRL Field Day (June 27-28) as a contest, even though it isn't one

---

**ARRL Letter**  
**May 29, 2009**

<<http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>>. But if your idea of Field

Day fun is to go for the highest score possible, ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, offered the following suggestions at the ARRL Field Day Forum at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention.

1) You will get many more stations in your log by calling CQ than by tuning the dial and answering CQs; however, if you're calling CQ and not getting any replies, keep calling. Most major testers call CQ for several minutes at a time before giving up. Giving up after three or four CQs is giving up too soon.

2) Keep your CQs short and to the point: "CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, Field Day." Wait about 5 seconds between CQs -- this gives stations enough time to answer you.

3) Use standard phonetics. "Cute" phonetics don't always get through and they can confuse newer operators.

4) When working a station, you should give your exchange information only once and keep it simple. "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy three Foxtrot Connecticut, QSL?" If they didn't get all of the exchange, they will ask for a repeat.

5) If you are running a pileup: Once you have pulled a call out of the

pileup, give your exchange information first. Here's an example:

"Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy 3F Connecticut, QSL?" Don't ask for the calling station's information first -- this will reduce any sense of rhythm and timing in the pileup.

6) If you get a pileup of stations and can't make out an entire call, listen for one letter and ask for it specifically:

"The station with Delta only, go ahead."

7) When you get the other station's information, keep your acknowledgment simple. "QSL, thanks, QRZ Field Day from Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey."

8) Find a comfortable pace for you and maintain that pace. You will tire quickly if you are screaming into the microphone or trying to work stations too quickly. This leads to inefficiency.

9) Use a headset with a boom microphone and a foot switch -- this frees up your hands to log QSOs. Writing or typing with a mike in your hand slows you down.

10) Go for as many bonus points as you possibly can. Numerous opportunities exist, from copying the Field Day message to sending traffic to using natural power for QSOs.

These tips should help maximize your score on Field Day. Remember: No matter how you choose to enjoy Field Day, maximize your fun, however you define it.

## W4DOC REPEATER NEWS & NOTES

All three repeaters require a CTCSS tone of 146.2 Hz.

146.820 (-) (IRLP Node 4550) 224.340 (-) 444.825 (+) (IRLP Node 5070)

The current schedule for net operations include the Sunday Night Net on 146.820 at 8PM EST and the Southeastern VHF Net on Wednesday evenings at 9PM. The 146.820 machine can also be dialed into IRLP and SKYWARN/ Peachtree City during inclement weather.

D-Star Repeaters (Bank of America Tower)

145.350 (-0.6 MHz) W4DOC C 444.600 (+5.0 MHz) W4DOC B

1282.60 (-12 MHz) W4DOC A 1297.625 (Data) W4DOC D

D-Star on Stone Mountain (Joint ARC/GA ARES)

145.960 (+2.5 MHz) WX4GPB C 444.700 (+5.0 MHz) WX4GPB B

1282.700 (-12 MHz) WX4GPB A 1297.125 (Data) WX4GPB D

**Don't forget to ask  
for it  
at the hamfest June  
6th**



### The Signman of Baton Rouge

The Atlanta Amateur Radio Club badge has a Silver background with blue letters and the Club Logo in gold. The distinctive Atlanta skyline; designed by Roy Epps, K4UWO, makes this name tag unique.

**Go online to order...Ask for the Atlanta ARC badge!**

PO Box 84107  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4107 USA  
(225) 757-1545 Phone  
225-208-1545 Fax  
Toll-Free 877-SIGNMAN  
[Http://thesignman.com](http://thesignman.com)





## (GA) D-Star Takes Center Stage at Dayton

D-Star made a big splash at this year's Dayton Hamvention. People from all over the world converged on Dayton to announce, celebrate and



**Bert Bruner  
KE4FOV**

discuss what's going on with D-Star. D-Star is truly a worldwide phenomenon. It was originally developed in Japan. The Trust Servers are in Texas. Gateway software comes from Icom in California and Japan. It (the gateway) runs on Linux. D-Rats software comes from Dan Smith, KK7DS in Oregon. There are D-Star repeaters all over the US as well as places like England, Germany, Italy, Russia, Brazil, Argentina and Australia.

But nowhere are there more D-Star repeaters per square mile than right here in Atlanta. Thanks to Robin Cutshaw, AA4RC, this is the home of the DV Dongle (<http://www.dvdongle.com>) and the D-Plus software which makes repeater linking possible. Ed Woodrick, WA4YIH, John Davis, WB4QDX and Georgia D-Star, Inc. have given us the D-Star Calculator, the D-Star Info web site (<http://www.dstarinfo.com>), the SE D-Star Weather Net and now the D-Star Info Newsletter (available online at the website).

Even Atlanta's Ham Radio Outlet is a big part of D-Star. Nobody is a bigger advocate of D-Star than Mark Holmes, KJ4VO. (Kevin O'Connell, K1ORG, runs a D-Star repeater in Ketchikan, Alaska. He told me that he caught the D-Star bug while talking to Mark in the Atlanta HRO store.) These great Atlanta resources are joined by a host a host of other Atlanta Hams who are eager to help by offering advice, information and help or just by talking on and about D-Star.

So while Dayton is thought by many to be the Mecca of Ham Radio, Atlanta just may be the Mecca of D-Star.

\* \* \*

For a few short days in May, all of these Atlanta resources moved to Dayton. Georgia D-Star shared a booth with the Texas Interconnect Team, which runs the D-Star Trust Servers (essentially root DNS so the repeaters and gateways can find each other). Ed set up the KJ4BDF repeater at the Hamvention for some demonstrations as well as to allow repeaters from all over the US to talk to attendees. (That's right, had you been listening to WD4STR or W4DOC, you would have heard conversations between attendees and others.)

Robin had a booth dedicated to the DV Dongle.

There was a D-Star Pizza night just for "eyeball QSOs". Dave Humphries, G4ETG from England was there. If you were part of drive-time on the 146.82 machine back in October, you may remember Dave's visit to Atlanta.

The D-Star Forum and Special Icom evening gathering provided updates on D-Star deployment in Alabama by Greg Saratt, W4OZK, D-Star deployment in Georgia by John Davis, WB4QDX, as well as experiences from Northern Illinois and Chicago. Dan Smith, KK7DS, provided an update on development of D-Rats and Robin Cutshaw, AA4RC brought us up to date on DV-Dongle development. He's been busy and has some things in the pipeline that will take the Dongle in a new direction. Stay tuned for more details.

The Texas Interconnect Team discussed the Trust Servers and explained how a single hardware failure caused a prolonged outage of a key server and what steps have been taken to make it easier to recover from future such problems.

All in all, Dayton was a wonderful experience with lots of D-Star and lots of ham friends. Heck, there were even some things there for non D-Star hams.

As always, please send comments and suggestions to  
KE4FOV@Bruner.us.

---

## Plug pulled on tower site repeaters

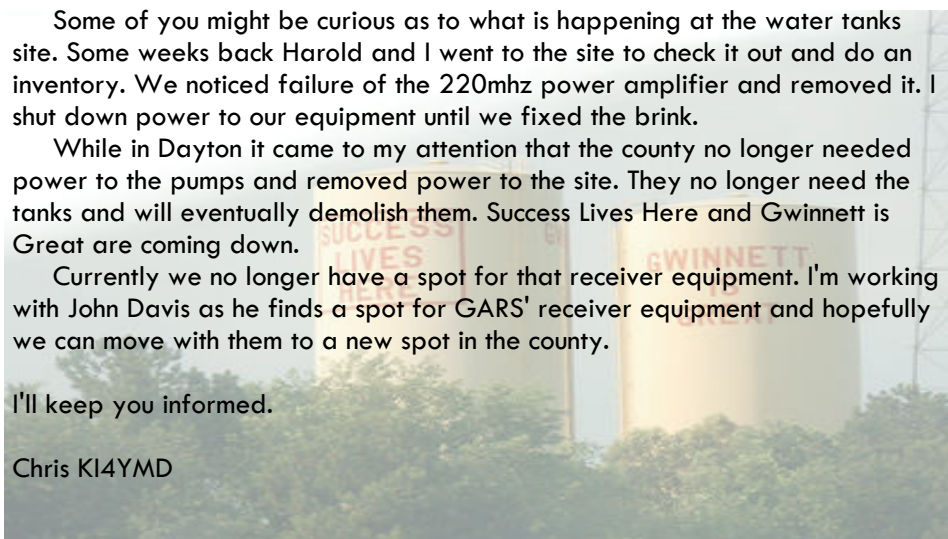
Some of you might be curious as to what is happening at the water tanks site. Some weeks back Harold and I went to the site to check it out and do an inventory. We noticed failure of the 220mhz power amplifier and removed it. I shut down power to our equipment until we fixed the brink.

While in Dayton it came to my attention that the county no longer needed power to the pumps and removed power to the site. They no longer need the tanks and will eventually demolish them. Success Lives Here and Gwinnett is Great are coming down.

Currently we no longer have a spot for that receiver equipment. I'm working with John Davis as he finds a spot for GARS' receiver equipment and hopefully we can move with them to a new spot in the county.

I'll keep you informed.

Chris KI4YMD



**By-Laws continued...***(Continued from page 2)*

Membership types have been simplified. We attempted to take the plethora of memberships and figure out what they really meant. In the end it became clear what the designers were getting at was voting memberships and non-voting memberships. That is how we have re-organized them. Put "Student", "Associates" and other types within those two broad categories and every possibility is covered.

We also moved definitions of memberships into an appendix. We can add new types as needed without the need for a "constitutional convention". Dues and fees have also been moved to an appendix as well to make it easier for the club to institute new services as needed. Changes would still require a vote of club membership to approve, but such changes would be more managerial than constitutional.

Old by-laws mandate club administrators notify members via US Post Office first class mail in certain cases. In pre-Internet days of \$.05 postage a good option, about the only option then. Now almost everyone has Internet and postage rates are about ten times more, now US first class mail is about the WORST way to do things.

New provisions allow the club to use Yahoo group messages, email or web page posting instead. Our thinking is the easier it is for club managers to inform members, and the easier it is for members to directly reach their managers, the better it is for everyone.

Other changes involve elections, streamlining the nominating and election committee processes.

The By-Laws Committee has changed over the months. I'd like to thank Charles Golsen and Marianne Howell for getting things started. Hugh Howell and Dick Bentley for sharing their insights into various functions of the club over the years. George Olive and Jim Reed for the grunt work of

digging through layers and layers of verbiage. And all the other folks who have chimed in a bit here and a bit there: Penn (no last name needed), David Schiff, Michael Miller, Chris Fowler, and Bert Bruner and Rob Osattin.

The new by-laws will be posted to the files section of the Yahoo group and a notice sent to all users on how

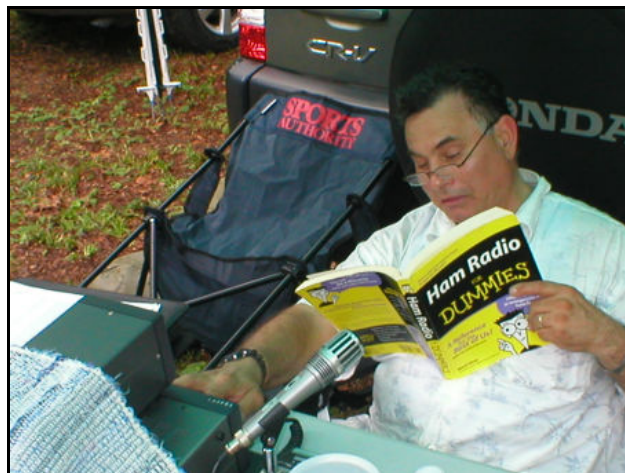
to find them. We need to discuss them at the next club meeting (May 7th) and, if acceptable, vote adopt the changes before or during our June meeting. If not acceptable then the quicker we can iron out what needs ironing the better. The new rules use June as the launch of the election "season" and we'd like to be under the new rules

**Atlanta Hamfest...***(Continued from page 1)*

Forums are certainly going to be a hit again this year. Included are ARES, ARRL, and Beginners Q&A Forum. Forums will run from 9AM to 2PM. Check [www.atlantahamfest.com](http://www.atlantahamfest.com) for updates.

If you would like to volunteer and have not signed up yet, please contact John Talipsky, N3ACK, 678-618-2190 or [johnn3ack@comcast.net](mailto:johnn3ack@comcast.net), I'm sure we can find a spot for you. Jim Miller Park has a covered arena should wet weather visit us June 6th. So y'all come rain or shine for a great hamfest!

**Mike KF4UPO recently  
passed his General...  
  
Congratulations!**

**Radioing Over the Appalachian Trail***(Continued from page 1)*

munications teams located on mountain peaks in the Eastern USA to communicate packets and APRS messages from one end of the 2175 mile Appalachian Trail to the other end on Sunday, July 26. The RF path, of course, is line of sight and only about 1200 miles, so Bob hopes to accomplish the feat with 15 stations over 14 hops on a special 2 meter frequency that will not interfere with normal packet communications.

All the details concerning the event are on the Appalachian Trail Golden Packet Annual Event Web page. If you would like to participate in this event, you can contact Bob directly by e-mail or contact the team leaders for each of the participating mountaintop stations listed on the event's Web page. Until next time, keep on surfen'!

Source: ARRL Letter May 15, 2009

# ATLANTA HAMFEST 2009

Sponsored by: ARRL  
and The Atlanta Radio Club  
W4DOC

Gates Open: 8:00AM—3:00PM Admission: \$5 (Under 18 Free) Tailgate Set-Up : 6:30 AM Saturday

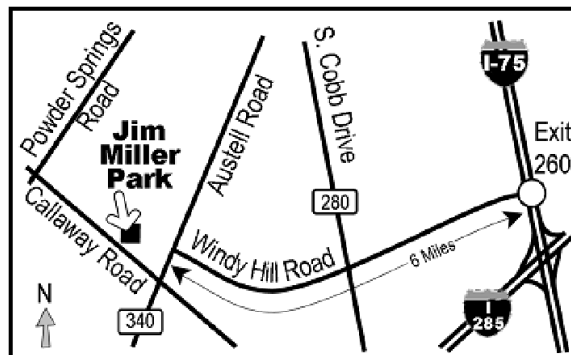


◆ DEALERS ◆ FLEA MARKET ◆ TAILGATING ◆ PRIZES  
◆ FORUMS ◆ FCC EXAMS ◆ FOOD ◆ RV & CAMPING

## SATURDAY JUNE 6TH

### Jim Miller Park, Cobb Co.

For more info:  
John Talipsky, N3ACK,  
385 Madison Chase Drive  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045  
770-995-6446 or 678-618-2190  
Email: johnn3ack@comcast.net



[www.atlantahamfest.com](http://www.atlantahamfest.com)

## ARC Field Day plans taking shape for June 2009

How long has it been since the Atlanta Radio Club celebrated Field Day? How about this year? I don't think we are going to win any prizes,

Bill Perkins  
KB4KFT

or that we can really compete head-to-head with the dedicated contest ori-

ented clubs. But we can set up and have some fun, right? Maybe not for the entire 24+ hours but at least for Saturday into Saturday evening.

I have talked with Andrew Carter (KI4SSU) of the Georgia Tech Amateur Radio Club about combining forces for Field Day 2009. If the logistics work out we

could operate from a big grassy field near the Van Leer Building - the same building where testing sessions are held.

**Goto: [www.w4doc.org](http://www.w4doc.org) for the latest details as they unfold**



*Photos: Pictures taken at a past ARC Field Day from many years ago, exact date unknown.*





**John Talipsky N3ACK**  
**The Atlanta Radio Club, Inc.**  
**385 Madison Chase Drive**  
**Lawrenceville, GA 30045**

**Bill Perkins, KB4KFT**

President  
kb4kft@billperkins.us

**Rob Osattin, KI4UTY**

Vice President  
rosattin@earthlink.net

**Bert Bruner - KE4FOV**

Treasurer  
ke4fov@arrl.net

**George Lane, KI4DSO**

Secretary  
404-943-9221  
glane4j@thinkingguy.com

**Chris Fowler - KI4YMD**

Member-At-Large  
ki4ymd@arrl.net

**Rob Osattin, KI4UTY**

Activities Manager  
rosattin@earthlink.net

**Robin Cutshaw, AA4RC**

Repeater Manager  
404-713-4000  
aa4rc@amsat.org

**Bert Bruner, KE4FOV**

**George Lane, KI4DSO**

Membership  
See contact info above

**John Talipsky Jr, N3ACK**

Hamfest Chairman  
770-995-6446  
johnn3ack@comcast.net

**John Talipsky Sr, KI4Y**

Newsletter  
678-985-1316  
john@talipsky.com

**MEETING NOTICE - THURS JUNE 4, 2009**



**TH F6A**



Finally, the Amateur Handheld that everyone has been waiting for, the New Kenwood TH-F6A. The TH-F6A is a 144/220/440 MHz transceiver/receiver with dual-channel RX capability in a compact and powerful design. The first Tri-Band HT with 3 bands you can operate EVERY DAY! The TH-F6A boasts a list of unique features the competition is still scratching their heads over.

**KENWOOD**  
Listen to the Future